

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **KASICH: PRESIDENT'S CHOICE OF TAX INCREASES OR RAIDING SOCIAL SECURITY IS 'UNACCEPTABLE'**

House Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich disclosed shortly before President Clinton's annual State of the Union address that he is aware of 120 new or increased government spending initiatives that would force Congress to either raise other taxes or spend money from the Social Security surplus.

"Even before today's address, the President is suggesting using over \$43 billion of the surplus in fiscal year 2001 alone. That's simply unacceptable. There's no telling what more he has in store for us *during* the address," Kasich said.

Earlier this week, the Congressional Budget Office estimated the non-Social Security (on-budget) surplus for 2000 would be \$22 billion. That surplus would be eliminated under Clinton's proposals. In addition, Congress would have to either raid Social Security or raise taxes in order to fund the other \$21 billion in spending requests.

"Instead of demanding Congress implement risky schemes to increase spending, the President should work with us to protect the Social Security surplus," added Kasich. "We've moved from an era of debt and deficits to an era of surplus. The last thing we should do is go on a Washington spending spree and threaten those gains."

A list of the White House's proposed or expected spending and revenue initiatives is available at the House Budget Committee website: <http://www.house.gov/budget/>.

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